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JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية « الراي »

Afars reject Paris deal

ACCRA, March 29 (R). — Afar delegates at the conference here on the future of the French territory of the Afars and Issas (Djibouti) charged today that existing proposals did not give their group adequate representation in the territory's new parliament. Three groups, mainly supported by the Afar section of the territory's 250,000 population, boycotted meetings held earlier this month in Paris, at which the proposals were made and June 27 set as the date for independence. "What happened in Paris cannot be used as a base for this conference," commented a member of the leftwing People's Liberation Movement. Delegates opposing them, who accepted the Paris proposals, told today's plenary session that the accords reached there were "inviolable", conference sources said.

Carter okays \$2b in arms sales

WASHINGTON, March 29 (R). — President Carter has approved two billion dollars in arms sales to NATO countries and other allies, the White House said today. The president is studying additional requests totalling \$1.6 billion. Deputy presidential press secretary Rex Granum said the names of countries for which the sales had been approved would be kept secret for 20 days under an agreement with Congress. Congress will then have 30 days to approve or disapprove. The Washington Post quoted administration sources as saying the sales include Howitzers and tanks for Israel, about \$500 million in military contract construction for Saudi Arabia, jet fighters for Greece, and various items for NATO countries, Jordan, Pakistan and South Korea.

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Vance, Gromyko review key world issues

WASHINGTON, March 29 (R). — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reviewed key world issues for five hours today and agreed to set up a working group to discuss the central aim of Mr. Vance's visit -- to bring about a suspension of Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (SALT) -- did come up.

Vance told reporters that he was not unhappy that SALT was not discussed after he had visited in detail. American officials said that the American News Agency United Press International that its visa application for a new correspondent was being rejected.

Mr. Vance was asked if he saw the Soviet action as a political decision, but he said he was not familiar with the case. George Krinsky, a correspondent for the other American agency, Associated Press, was expelled from the Soviet Union last month. The U.S. responded by expelling a correspondent of the Soviet news agency Tass in Washington.

Mr. Vance declined to go into details of the talks. But summarized the discussion as follows:

-- on the force reduction talks, both sides felt they should try to get them "out of the doldrums."

-- on the Middle East he said: "I had the feeling they were being constructive and wished to play a constructive and active role as co-chairmen (of the Geneva peace talks)."

-- on a comprehensive test ban, he said they had good discussions but there were still some obvious issues to be explored.

-- on arms sales to the Middle East, he said the problem would probably remain unresolved until the political issues were settled.

Mr. Vance has offered to extend his talks beyond their scheduled end tomorrow, but has so far received no response.

Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev took part only in the first of the four sessions so far, and implicitly attacked the Carter administration's stand on human rights.



DAY OF THE LAND -- A file photo shows an Israeli soldier inspecting the book case of an Arab schoolgirl in the Galilee area, while an Arab schoolboy holds her jeep from her. The Arab villages in the Galilee witnessed fierce demonstrations against land takeovers by the Israeli military forces.

To mark Day of the Land

Arabs in Israel, West Bankers hold protest rallies, strikes today

TEL AVIV, March 29 (Agencies) — Israeli military forces are preparing for possible trouble tomorrow when Israel's Arab minority, backed by West Bank inhabitants, marks the anniversary of last year's violent demonstrations against the forcible government takeover of land owned by Arabs.

A series of peaceful local rallies have been held in Arab Israeli towns in the past days and a big central rally is scheduled for tomorrow in the Galilee village of Arraba where four people were killed last year.

One of the leaders of the Arab Israeli community, Haifa businessman Saliba Khamis, said the authorities' reaction to last year's demonstrations showed the Israeli government considered Israeli Arabs as enemies.

Israeli authorities say they fired at the demonstrators only after an army convoy was stoned in Arraba village and that this was an "act of war."

Mr. Khamis told Reuters on Sunday at Kafir Kanna, at the first of this year's rallies, that the demonstrations were the only way then open to Israel's Arabs to protest against land expropriation.

Israeli authorities say the land will be used to build new housing for both Jews and Arabs.

But there is a government plan to increase the Jewish population of Galilee at the expense of the Arabs.

The Day of the Land will also be observed on the East Bank as an expression of solidarity with their brethren under Israeli occupation.

Sermons in churches and mosques will urge West Bankers to stay put on their lands despite Israeli pressures to drive them off.

Arafat believes Carter for Palestinian state

DOHA, March 29 (R). — Palestine leader Yasser Arafat said today President Carter's recent reference to a homeland for the Palestinians meant he supported the creation of a Palestinian state.

Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, during a tour of Gulf states to explain PLO policy.

President Carter said recently that a homeland should be provided for Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Arafat told reporters Mr. Carter's statement constituted "an advanced step for an American president for it is the first time a U.S. president has mentioned a Palestinian homeland."

He said the statement and recent remarks by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev meant that "both superpowers are now calling for a Palestinian state."

"The Soviets said it in a clear cut way while the Americans called it a 'homeland,'" he added.

Before leaving Jeddah today, Mr. Arafat discussed with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz topics related to the Palestine question and the Middle East situation.

It was also understood in Jeddah that Mr. Arafat briefed the prince on the outcome of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) talks which ended in Cairo last week.

The Washington Post yesterday quoted a high PLO official in Beirut as saying that his organization had tried to tell the United States that it had adopted a more moderate stance towards a Middle East peace by excluding members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), led by Mr. George Habash, from the newly formed Executive Committee of the PLO.

The PLO signal had, however, not been recognized by Washington, according to diplomats in the Lebanese capital. The signal was sent last Monday when the PNC approved the makeup of the Executive Committee without representatives from the PFLP.

"That was the most significant political decision of the national council meeting," the PLO representative in London, Mr. Sa'ad Hamami, said.

The Palestinians have been asked by the United States and Israel "to give some tangible sign" during the PNC meeting that they had assumed a moderate approach.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, for example, called on the PLO to amend its national charter so that it recognizes the right of Israel to exist.

While the Palestinians did not modify their charter, they did pass a resolution which a PLO official said is aimed at erasing doubt that all Israeli Jews and Palestinians can live together in peace.

Part of the charter has been interpreted as meaning that only families of Jews who lived in Palestine before the creation of Israel in 1948 should be allowed to remain, thus forcing European Jews who moved to Israel afterwards to leave.

In the concluding statement of its meeting in Cairo, the national council passed a resolution stating that "all Jews who are willing to live side by side with us in peace" should be allowed in any Palestinian state.

Prince Hassan, Dutch officials discuss M.E. peace, economic aid

THE HAGUE, March 29 (R). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today discussed the Middle East situation and economic cooperation between Holland and Jordan with Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoep, the Foreign Ministry said.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by his wife Princess Sarvath, arrived here yesterday for an official three-day visit.

A ministry spokesman said after the 35-minute meeting that Prince Hassan and Mr. Van der Stoep "had a useful exchange of views and agreed on the necessity of a settlement of the Middle East conflict."

Economic cooperation between the two countries was also discussed, the spokesman said, but gave no details.

Prince Hassan also had a 60-minute talk with Dutch Development Cooperation Minister Jan Pronk on possible aid to Jordan.

Holland earmarked 5.5 million guilders (about £1.1 million) in 1975 for the establishment of a fruit and vegetable packing station in the Jordan Valley. This project is now nearing completion.

The ministry's development aid spokesman said Mr. Pronk had promised Prince Hassan to consider giving a similar amount of aid for another project. The choice of the project would be discussed between the two countries at a later date.

Earlier today, Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were received and had lunch with Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard at their Soestdijk Palace near Utrecht, central Holland.

The prince and princess also visited the ancient Leyden University, about 20 kms north of here. The university's Palestinian archaeology section has regularly made excavations in the Jordan Valley since 1960.

Giscard plans to sweep several top politicians out of cabinet

PARIS, March 29 (R). — President Valery Giscard d'Estaing is planning to prevent a position left from taking in France, plans to sweep several top political figures from government in a new cabinet.

Formally asked Prime Minister Raymond Barre today to resign, Giscard's move was a carefully-planned move to prepare the ground for a critical reelection one year away.

Barre announced that he would retain his dual role as prime minister and finance minister, but gave no hints about the coalition of the streamlined cabinet team the president asked him to head.

"big three" politicians in outgoing cabinet: independent republican Michel Poniatowski, Socialist Jean Lecanuet and Gaullist "Baron" Olivier Guichard were all expected to lose their influential ministries.

Mr. Giscard appeared to be only Giscard d'Estaing's ally last night, the new cabinet would be free of political rivalries which had shaken France's three-ruling coalition in recent years.

Poniatowski, the Interior and M. Lecanuet, the Ministry of State for Planning, have been entangled in controversy because of their fierce attacks against Gaullist chief Jacques Chirac, the former prime minister.

President met M. Chirac at the Elysee Palace today for the first time since last November. The meeting aroused speculation that there might be a prospect that the Gaullist would invite the Gaullist back into government or that M. Chirac would make such an offer.

British government promises heavy cuts in income tax

LONDON, March 29 (AFP). — Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, today held out an easing of the tax burden as bait for acceptance by the trade unions of another year of wage restraint.

Presenting the new budget to the House of Commons, Mr. Healey proposed an immediate relief of £500 million for British taxpayers, to be followed by another £1,000 million provided the Trades Union Congress (TUC) agrees to a renewal of the "social contract" with the government for another 12 months from next August.

Wage restraint is a basic element in the Labour minority government's struggle against inflation, a key target reflected in the new budget along with the need to stabilize unemployment, strengthen productivity and promote investments.

The overall tax relief offered by Mr. Healey, the IUC agrees to a third period of wage restraint, would amount to a 10 per cent reduction in income taxes. The limit of non-taxable income would be raised and the basic tax rate would be lowered from 35 to 33 per cent. It would mean that a total of 845,000 tax payers would no longer be liable to direct taxation.

However, the chancellor made it clear that the loss of revenue would be offset in part by an increase in indirect taxation. This will hit motorists and smokers. The tax on petrol and other fuels for motor vehicles would be raised by 13.33 per cent and the road tax by 25 per cent to £50 a year. Another 10 per cent would be clamped on the tax on cigarettes, which in any case was harmful to the health of smokers, Mr. Healey told the house.

There would be no change for pipe tobacco, which, he noted, played an important part in the life of many retired persons.

The chancellor made it clear that he hoped the proposed tax cuts would help improve productivity. He recognized that the tax burden had become so heavy that it had reduced the taste for work, and emphasized that those who would benefit most from these measures would be the highly skilled workers and medium level executive staff.

Mr. Healey also suggested that tax relief would contribute to the struggle against inflation, to the extent where the TUC would feel encouraged to go along with another year of wage restraint, and should also have an impact on unemployment. It would encourage a rise in private consumption which in turn would help create 100,000 new jobs.

Mr. Healey otherwise proposed no major new measures to reduce unemployment. But he set aside £214 million over the coming two years for subsidies to help employers keep temporarily redundant staff on the payroll, and earmarked £100 million for aid to the construction industry in the coming financial year through renewal of urban centres.

Although he said he had to be cautious, Mr. Healey predicted that Britain's current account payments deficit "should be progressively eliminated". There were "good prospects of a healthy surplus" in 1978, he said. This would come as a result of increased revenues from North Sea oil and rising exports.

He said that the firming up of sterling since the crisis last October had contributed to a three per cent reduction of the inflation rate at the end of the current financial year and predicted that the rate would come down below 10 per cent in the second quarter of next year.

Mr. Healey said that the budget measures would help ensure a 1.5 per cent growth rate. Industrial output would rise by 2.5 per cent.

Observers were stressed however that the economic prospects would largely depend upon the stand adopted by the trade unions in the renegotiation of the "social contract".

The immediate reaction to the budget from TUC Secretary General Len Murray was one of "no enthusiasm".

As for Conservative opposition leader Margaret Thatcher, she criticised it sharply. Addressing the house after Mr. Healey's budget speech, she made an indirect reference to the severe restraints attached to the aid granted Britain by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"It is an IMF budget," she said. "It is not a revival budget for Britain but a survival budget for the Labour government"

PLO official comments on relations with Lebanon

KUWAIT, March 29 (R). — A Palestinian leader said here today an Arab summit should look into Palestinian-Lebanese relations if Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fail to agree on a common interpretation of their 1969 agreement.

Mr. Selim Al Zaonoun, Deputy Chairman of the Palestine National Council was speaking to reporters after calling on Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Mr. Zaonoun, who also represents Fatah in Kuwait, was accompanied at the meeting by the director of the PLO office here, Mr. Ali Yassin.

Press reports have spoken of differences over the interpretation of the 1969 Cairo accord, which regulates relations between the commando movement and the Lebanese authorities. Kuwait is said to have insisted on abiding by the original text of the accord.

Asked whether the PLO might refer the matter to an Arab summit if no agreement was reached on interpreting the terms of the Cairo accord, Mr. Zaonoun said: "In such a case the matter should be referred to a full or restricted summit."

"However, we hope there will be eventual agreement through the efforts being undertaken by the countries represented on the four-member committee," he added.

Podgorny arrives in Mozambique on final leg of African tour

MAPUTO, March 29 (R). — Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny arrived here from Lusaka today on the last leg of a three-country African tour to an enthusiastic welcome from thousands of Mozambicans.

They were given a five-hour break from their normal daily tasks to stage the mass welcome.

Moscow provided Mozambique's ruling Frelimo movement with arms and support during its long and bitter war with Portugal until independence 21 months ago, and Mr. Podgorny has reiterated Soviet support for black nationalists seeking to overthrow white minority rule in Southern Africa.

Shortly after driving into Maputo through streets lined with crowds and Soviet flags, Mr. Podgorny held the first of three rounds of talks scheduled with Mozambique President Samora Machel.

A Soviet official at the airport said they would discuss bilateral and international relations, including detente, disarmament, the Middle East and Africa -- "including of course, definitely, Southern Africa."

The bush war against the white minority government in Rhodesia by Soviet-armed black nationalist guerrillas operating from Mozambique was expected to be high on the agenda.

But a senior Soviet official travelling with the Soviet president denied Western claims that his country was seeking control of Southern Africa and the strategic Cape sea route.

Answering questions, the official told reporters: "This is absolutely not right. We wish to strengthen friendship and cooperation."

"We are not looking for privileges, nor for military bases or concessions. We only wish to increase our cooperation and friendship and strengthen the independence of Mozambique," he said.

The official said there would be no Soviet requests for military facilities during the extensive talks here.

"The Soviet Union has always supported developing countries, which is one of the principles of our foreign policy... Southern Africa now is the most important region from the point of view of the struggle against imperialism and colonialism," the official added.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BIDDERS' QUALIFICATIONS THE HOUSING BANK

THE HOUSING BANK of Amman, Jordan, hereby announces its intent to build a commercial centre in Shmeisani area in Amman, consisting of:

- A podium for commercial activities (area 42,000 square metres)
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- An apartment block consisting of 6 floors, (area 14,000 square metres)
- A cinema (area 2,000 square metres)
- Related dependencies and external works.

The work is programmed to start in September 1977.

Contractors with similar work experience are invited to collect pre-qualification forms from and submit them back to the following address:

Dar Al Handasah Consultants (Sha'ir and Partners) P.O. Box 2292, Amman

The forms duly completed and signed should be submitted not later than 15 May, 1977.

Only those contractors who have completed the pre-qualification forms and are qualified to the satisfaction of the consultants will receive an invitation to bid.

THE HOUSING BANK Amman — Jordan

APOLGOGY

Jordan Times apologises for the error in yesterday's issue on the Silver Jubilee of our page 1. It should read: "His Majesty King Abdullah and His Highness Prince Muhammad." Our sincerest apologies.

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The real extremists

According to Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, the PLO is "divided between extremists and even more extremists." As a sign of his own country's moderation, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin responded to the recent decisions of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) with the peace-loving declaration: "The only place we will meet (with the PLO) is on the battlefield."

Israel's U.N. representative Chaim Herzog, taking his cue from his superiors, argued at Monday's Security Council meeting that the existence of "moderate elements" within the PLO was "a misconception." "Moderates and extremists" he said, "are completely identical in their attitude towards Israel."

While this is good propaganda, it is far from the truth. Most recently, the PLO sent a "signal" to the United States that it was adopting a softer stance towards Israel. The so-called signal was the complete exclusion of representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the biggest single group in the Rejection Front, from the decision-making Executive Committee of the PLO.

The act, described by the organization's London representative Sa'ad Hamami as "the most significant decision of the national council meeting" was little publicized. The signal was veiled in political jargon to which the Palestinian leadership has grown accustomed. The reference was so oblique that it evoked no response.

To drive the point home, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat sent President Carter a message during an interview broadcast on CBS television: "I'm telling him through you, through this television, I will make all my best (efforts) to help him settle a just peace in the area. All my efforts. Tell him that, all my efforts."

Again the reference, if not the willingness to be accommodating, was not clear.

PLO leaders are at a loss as to how to explain to Palestinian refugees who have paid for the establishment of a national Jewish homeland in the hard coin of unimaginable human suffering and untold misery that they must alter their covenant and recognise Israel.

Yet the PNC had given its leaders a mandate to negotiate the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It had not altered its covenant which calls for the establishment of a secular state in all of Palestine in which Arabs and Jews could live in peace, but it strove to remove any lingering doubts about the possible expulsion of Jews from such a state: "All Jews who are willing to live side by side with us in peace" should be allowed in any Palestinian state, one of the PNC's decisions stated.

The clear inference is that the PLO cannot and will not take a unilateral decision to waive the rights of the Palestinians to their homeland when the Israeli leadership is not willing to and cannot offer them even a mini-homeland in return. Peace and coexistence can come about, the Palestinians have made it clear, but they have also made it clear that Israel's demand for recognition by the PLO is viewed by the organisation as an attempt to impose an impossible condition on peace efforts and to camouflage the fact that Israel itself is not ready for peace. In other words, Israel is simply passing the buck.

Today the Arabs in Israel and the West Bank mark the Day of the Land, to register their protest for the expropriation of Arab lands by Israel and the slaying of demonstrators by Israeli troops last year.

The Israeli government at the time ordered an investigation into the killings but later quietly and unobtrusively exonerated the troops involved. Such a course of action would have been impossible if those killed had been of a different ethnic group and a different religion. Would the troops have been exonerated if their victims had been Jews? Hardly!

How are the Arabs expected to believe that Israel is willing to give back the occupied territories when the Israeli leadership is stripping Arabs of the title to

secular state in all of Palestine in which Arabs and Jews could live in peace, but it strove to remove any lingering doubts about the possible expulsion of Jews from such a state: "All Jews who are willing to live side by side with us in peace" should be allowed in any Palestinian state, one of the PNC's decisions stated.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Three Jordanian dailies took up different subjects in their Tuesday editorials. While Al Ra'i commented on the need for Lebanon to reorganise and speed up the rebuilding of its national institutions, Al Dustour commented on Jordan's proposal to the Security Council for the establishing of a three-man monitoring team in Jerusalem to ensure Israel's strict observation of the Geneva convention, relevant to the protection of civilians. A third daily Al Sha'b discussed the celebrations marking the beginning of the Silver Jubilee.

AL RA'I, under the heading "Lebanon... till when and why?" said that Lebanon, in spite of the political, economic, and military complexities inherited from the civil war, should speed up the pace of reconstructing its national institutions during this second six month mandate of the Arab peace keeping force. It should achieve this with the only force it possesses; that of the legitimate power of President Sarkis. Those interested in the Lebanese problem are well aware that the only obstacle standing in the way of reconstruction is the lack of funds. But the Arabs who are capable of providing the necessary funds are

waiting for tranquility and peace to return to Lebanon before loosening their purses. Lebanon has been preoccupied during the past six months with the problem in the south. During the coming period Lebanon will remain protected by the Arab peace keeping force but this could never replace the need for the reorganisation and reconstruction of the country's institutions, enabling it to function on its own again.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "First step to peace" said that the Jordanian proposal to the U.N. Security Council could be considered the best guideline to lead the Security Council in its search for the long-sought peace settlement. The detailed Jordanian proposals, the paper added, will enable the United Nations to adopt a more positive and effective role in the occupied territories by becoming, for the first time, a direct on the spot observer supervising the implementation of international accords, instead of remaining purely a source of resolutions.

The presence of the three-man monitoring committee in the occupied territories will also confirm the various United Nations resolutions condemning Israel's annexation of Jerusa-



'I think I know what our special relationship is: having our windows open.'

An enlarged EEC might help the cause of democracy in Southern Europe

Why, then, do the northern European members of the Common Market agree, since it is certainly they who will bear most of the financial burden of subsidising these poorer countries? The answer is simply politics. Not a nasty kind of politics, either. There is even a little idealism peeking round the edges.

For about forty years in Spain and Portugal, and during much of that time in Greece as well, there were harsh, right-wing military dictatorships. All three countries have begun to struggle back towards democracy, amidst severe political and economic difficulties, only in the past couple of years.

There is no question that popular, parliamentary government in all of them will be a delicate plant, liable to sudden and fatal attacks of loss of confidence, for a good while to come yet. Bringing them within the EEC might help democracy to survive.

Both Dr. Soares in Portugal and Mr. Karamalis in Greece fought their election campaigns on a promise to get within the shelter of the EEC as soon as possible. Opinion in Spain puts just as much hope in the Common Market link. Existing members cannot resist these appeals, and have not even tried very hard.

So southern Europe beneath the 'olive line' is going to join the market, and the economics of it will just have to get into step. There will be no package deals, for the three candidates are widely different. Greece and Spain, whose gross national product per capita will probably both surpass that of Ireland,

the poorest existing community member, during the course of this year, could be fully integrated by, say, 1985.

Portugal, on the other hand, is talking in terms of a transitional period of ten years or more, which is only sense in view of its devastated economy. But it can generally be said that the Common Market will adjust fairly smoothly to the new members economically.

A much more interesting question is what all this will do to the already badly creaking drive to turn the Common Market into some sort of federal Western European super-state. To the opposition of some existing members to further integration will be added the potential vetoes of three new members, and in many matters the community will have to mark time for years while they catch up.

The first direct elections to the European parliament now scheduled for May or June of next year, was the first real step down the road to a unity for over a decade. It could be the last for another decade or more. But perhaps little more was to be expected anyway, for the moment: The community has barely digested the last batch of late entries.

The community of the twelve, whose outline ought to be pretty clear by about 1980, will certainly not mean a new surge of idealism towards a federal Europe. Indeed, it will slow things down further. But it is still worthwhile if it really can help the cause of democracy in Greece, Spain and Portugal.

And it may provide a broader launching pad for a new European federalism, if that still seems desirable, at a later date.

Cypriots begin talks on Thursday but are skeptical of the results

Peace talks between both sides in the Cyprus dispute resumed in Vienna on March 31, and there is "a definite possibility," as President Carter's emissary put it, of a settlement this year. The breakthrough in the year-long stalemate in the talks came recently when President Makarios had a surprise meeting with Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader -- the first in 14 years. There will be a lot of caution but both sides now seem ready to table constructive suggestions.

NICOSIA, (Gemin). — A Cyprus settlement this year is "a definite possibility," said former U.S. Defence Secretary Clark Clifford at the end of a fact-finding mission to Athens, Ankara and Nicosia, as President Carter's emissary.

But Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, preparing to resume peace talks in Vienna at the end of this month, under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, are not so sure.

There have been negotiations in the past, which dragged on for years only to end in stalemate, and over-optimistic forecasts and statements are seen by experts as unrealistic.

Both sides say they are making "intensive preparations" for the talks which, this time, will be between two lawyers and members of their respective parliaments: Tassos Papadopoulos, for the Greek side and Umit Suleiman Onon, for the Turkish side.

The previous round of inter-communal talks were on a higher level. The negotiators then were Glafkos Clerides, former president of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, but nothing positive emerged from their protracted negotiations.

What makes the new negotiations appear more hopeful?

Both sides, said Clifford, were now ready to table "positive, constructive suggestions" and work hard towards a settlement. "I think this is a good time for a settlement," he added.

The "breakthrough" in the year-long stalemate in the talks came in late January when President Makarios had a surprise meeting with Denktaş, their first encounter for some 14 years.

At a second meeting, on February 12, in the presence of Waldheim, they agreed to resume settlement talks, and also on a set of "guidelines" for their negotiators. Waldheim hailed the "new spirit" between the two sides in Cyprus. The meeting was definitely an encouraging development which provided new impetus to efforts to end the 24 year state of war and reunite this divided strategic island in the Mediterranean.

The American administration particularly welcomed such a move, as it desires the restoration of good relations between Greece and Turkey in order to reestablish the NATO bastion in the eastern Mediterranean.

But there is a lot of caution and apprehension about the peace prospects. Political analysts point out that the "guidelines" agreed by the two leaders are so loosely framed, that they could be given the widest possible interpretation. And they could lead to months and months of fruitless negotiations.

The first instruction to the negotiators says: "We are seeking an independent, non-aligned bi-communal federal republic." The main argument here is expected to centre on the powers of the federal government: The Greeks want a strong central government, the Turks want it as weak as possible.

The second guideline deals with the most difficult issue: blocking a settlement -- the proportions of territory to be controlled by the two sides. It says: "The territory under the administration of each community should be discussed in the light of economic viability and productivity and land ownership."

The Turkish Cypriots, who comprised approximately 18 per cent of the island's population at the time of the 1974 Turkish invasion, occupy about 38 per cent of the territory, roughly the northern third. The key question is how much territory the Turks are willing to give up. Denktaş has said he is ready to reduce the Turkish-controlled area to 32.8 per cent, saying or rather claiming that this is the extent of land owned by the Turkish community.

The Greeks, who rely so much on their land registry records as well as files kept by the British colonial administration before 1960, maintain that land owned by Turks does not exceed 17 per cent. Their official proposal to the Turkish side contained an offer of 20 per cent, while Archbishop Makarios said recently he was ready to raise the amount of territory to remain under Turkish control to around 23 per cent.

Denktaş conceded to a press conference that "the difference between the two sides on this point is great, but the criteria as to how to go about determining the issue have been agreed."

However, experts believe arguments over land viability and productivity could drag on for years. If there is a desire for compromise, the two sides could perhaps settle for something like 25-28 per cent.

But just as important is which areas the Turks will pull back from. It is almost taken for granted that Famagusta, the seaside resort on the east, once called "the Miami of Cyprus", will be handed back, so that its 50,000 Greek inhabitants can go back to their homes.

Famagusta has been sealed off by Turkish troops but has not been settled. But other areas, such as the rich, citrus-growing region around Morphou west of Nicosia, may prove a real bone of contention. The Greek inhabitants want to return there, the Turks want to keep it.

The third guideline states that such principles as freedom of movement, freedom of

settlement, and the right property will be discussed taking into consideration the bi-communal federal system as "certain practical difficulties which may arise for the Turkish Cypriot community."

The Greeks will insist acceptance of these principles. As President Makarios said: "If there is no freedom movement then we should be of two states." Denktaş on the other hand says there should be "security controls between the two sides to be eased time goes by."

The key question again he is whether Greek Cypriots as Turkish Cypriots will be free to cross into each other's region, settle and work there. The Turks are likely to have strong objections to Greek moving en masse back to the north, since in such a case they would again form a majority in both areas.

The fourth directive is "the powers and functions of the central federal government will be such as to safeguard the unity of the country, being regard to the bi-communal character of the state."

As one can notice, all the points are interlinked to an extent that is why the two sides have agreed that they should work for a "package deal" -- not accepting in a final form any of the issues involved until there is an overall settlement.

Diplomats agree that Archbishop Makarios has come long way to meet the Turkish demand for a "bizonal federation". He has dropped his policy of a "long struggle" -- a best for the time being -- as he has agreed to negotiate while some 30,000 Turkish mainland troops still hold the northern part of the island.

As Denktaş himself said: "There has been a considerable movement on the part of the Greek side -- in the right direction."

As a matter of principle, settlement must come from two communities themselves everyone agrees. But friendly countries which are concerned about the Cyprus dispute naturally try to help bridge the existing gap.

Denktaş may angrily reject any American intervention or "pressure", but admits that his community has to rely on infusions of economic aid from Turkey order to survive.

Ankara, therefore, seems hold the key to a settlement. The Carter administration tends apparently to use its finances to promote a settlement.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION	AMMAN AIRPORT	VOICE OF AMERICA
Channel 3 & 6 6:00 Quran 6:05 Cartoons 6:30 Agricultural programme 7:00 Lucy show 8:00 News in Arabic Channel 3 7:30 Sports programme	Arrivals: 8:20 Dubai (Alitalia) 8:25 Muscat, Doha 8:45 Karachi, Abu Dhabi 8:55 Jeddah 9:50 Agaba 10:30 Beirut 14:18 Athens (GA) 14:20 Jeddah (SDI) 15:30 Aleppo, Damascus 17:15 Larnaca (CY) 17:55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva 18:40 Beirut (MEA) 19:50 London (BA) 21:25 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)	Departures: 8:00 Agaba 8:05 Beirut 8:45 Beirut (MEA) 8:55 Rome (Alitalia) 10:30 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM) 11:00 Vienna, Copenhagen 11:30 Damascus, Aleppo 12:00 London 15:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GA) 17:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI) 18:00 Larnaca (CY) 18:55 Kuwait 20:00 Baghdad, Dhahran 21:05 Rawalpindi (BA)
RADIO JORDAN	BBC RADIO	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
(On 856 KEZ) 7:00 Morning melodies 7:30 News 7:40 News report 8:00 Sign off 8:10 Pop session 8:30 News summary 13:00 News summary 13:05 Pop session 14:00 News 14:10 Radio magazine 14:20 Arabs in history 15:00 Concert hour 16:00 Old favourites	16:30 Easy listening 17:00 Good vibrations (re-peat) 17:30 Pop session 18:00 Pop session 18:05 News summary 18:15 Catch the words (re-peat) 18:45 My kind of music (re-peat) 19:00 News 19:10 News reports 19:30 Sign off	GMT 05:00 The Breakfast Show : 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 06:30 GMT : News, Regional and Topical Reports; VOA Current News Summary. 08:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT : a informal presentation of popular music with feature reports 20:15 Music USA (Jazz). 17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary, Dateline. 17:30
EMERGENCIES	PHARMACIES	Cultural Centres
Doctors: Amman: Fawzi Nimo (37814) Salman Dabboul (21334) Irbid: Jerusalem Mezzar Falah (2878) Zarqa: Kamel Hamati (26945)	Basman (23784) Yusuf (51822) Irbid: Jerusalem Zarqa: Salqa Hayat	Associated Centre (USIS) Tel. 41230 British Council " 38147-8 French Cultural Centre " 57889 Goethe Institute " 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre " 40288 Amman Memorial Library " 38111

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Bureaucracy harms efficiency of vital satellite station

A couple of weeks ago Minister of Telecommunications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh announced that a second satellite station would be built by mid-1979. However, Jordan's advances in the telecommunications field are seriously endangered by bureaucratic inefficiency, as the Jordan Times found out while investigating the feasibility of such a project. His two-part series will look at the present station and its problems, as well as the ambitious plans for the future with the coming of faster and more reliable telephone and telex communications.

The main services provided by the station are telephone, telex, telegraph and T.V. links. Telex is an automatic service to most parts of Europe and the United States. T.V. is not a full-time service, but is used frequently, for Jordan is the third country in the world for its volume of T.V. traffic.

As for telephone traffic, the station is at the moment using 28 telephone channels out of the available 38. The limitation lies in the Amman switching station, which needs signalling equipment so that the remaining eight channels can be used. This equipment is now at the airport, so by May the full 38 channels will be in use.

The standard "A" type parabola-shaped dish receives signals from the satellite, which are concentrated into one beam by the shape of the dish. The receiving equipment consists of two models: a 15 degrees Kelvin noise cooled type and the other an uncooled type with a 55 degrees Kelvin noise reducer.

The cooled receiver will soon be replaced by a modern uncooled one with a 35 degrees Kelvin noise reducer. As for transmitting equipment, there are also two models: One a high-power Klystron type, and the second a TWT type.

The tracking mechanism of the satellite, which moves 0.5 degrees to either side of zero point, must be very accurate. If auto tracking fails, manual tracking can take over. Four drive motors control the tracking of the enormous 150 tonnes of the dish, truss and counterweight. Two are for azimuth -- (movement to each side) -- and the other two for elevation.

Bad weather and strong winds rarely cause problems for the dish, but in 1974 the station faced a problem when the dish was reshaped by thick snow, which accumulated inside it. This reduced the concentration of signals, resulting in weak reception.

A new technique has been adopted for the Intelsat network: Spade transmission equipment. This equipment does not transmit continuously to the satellite. It is computerised so that if there is no demand, no signals will be transmitted to the satellite. On the other hand, the Klystron high-powered type keeps transmitting continuously whether there are calls or not.

Spade -- or single channel per carrier multiple access demand assignment pulse code modulation equipment -- transmits to 23 countries in the Atlantic region through the Intelsat satellites. In July, the channel capacity through the present station will be boosted to 60. The necessary equipment has already been ordered.

But demand for telecommunications facilities is great and more channels are needed. In fact, the traffic to the Indian Ocean region justifies the building of a second satellite station to serve India, Pakistan and Japan.

Tomorrow: Future plans

TALHOUNI MEETS SYRIAN SPEAKER IN DAMASCUS

DAMASCUS, March 29 (R). — Jordanian and Syrian officials held talks here today on developing cooperation between the parliaments of their countries. The talks were between Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhouni and Mr. Mohammad Ali Al Halabi, Speaker of the Syrian People's Council. Mr. Talhouni, who is President of the Arab Parliamentary Union, arrived here earlier today for a three-day visit during which he will direct the work of the Union's bureau, based in Damascus.

By Fernando Francis Special to the Jordan Times

The present station, located in the Bar'q Valley about 15 s. north-west of Amman, is operated by a well-trained daniyan group of technicians. The station was built between 1969 and 1970, but because of the 1970 clashes most of the equipment was damaged, and the station was closed. His Majesty King Hussein visited the station on May 23, 2, while actual operations started after the replacement of damaged equipment in Nov. 1. Nippon Electric Company (C) of Japan, the contractor, operated the station in its 7 year while the Jordanians learnt the ropes.

In 1973, the Jordanian crew took over the station under the supervision of three NEC engineers. By the end of 1973, the Jordanian engineers were fully trained.

The station itself is a standard "A" type, with a 33-metre diameter parabola-shaped antenna dish. It has a direct link with the Intelsat IV and A FI satellites, which are situated about 35,000 kms above the equator. These satellites provide Jordan with direct telelinks to the United States, Britain, Italy, West Germany, France, Kuwait and Taif Saudi Arabia.

It is possible to reach other countries indirectly through these satellites, so another station is needed if it has the right equipment, retransmit a message via Intelsat through satellites over the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

There are many problems with the present satellite station, which are leading towards an increasing failure rate," operations engineer, Mr. Mohammad Khasawneh said. Routine. The inertia of the administration (of the Telecommunications Corporation) is holding back the efficiency of the station. Many problems treated with urgency, but some have to be taken on spot, and that's why the station must be independent not a department of the corporation, as it is right now. Separate management is needed. It must be remembered this station is part of a nationwide system and any change here will affect the rest of Intelsat system," he stressed.

Initially, 30 engineers and technicians were trained by on-lectures. Some of them went for training outside Jordan. But many have now left. The start of operations 90 days have been through the on. Five out of the first 30 are still working." The replacement of those technicians is a hard task and the training of the newcomers in-

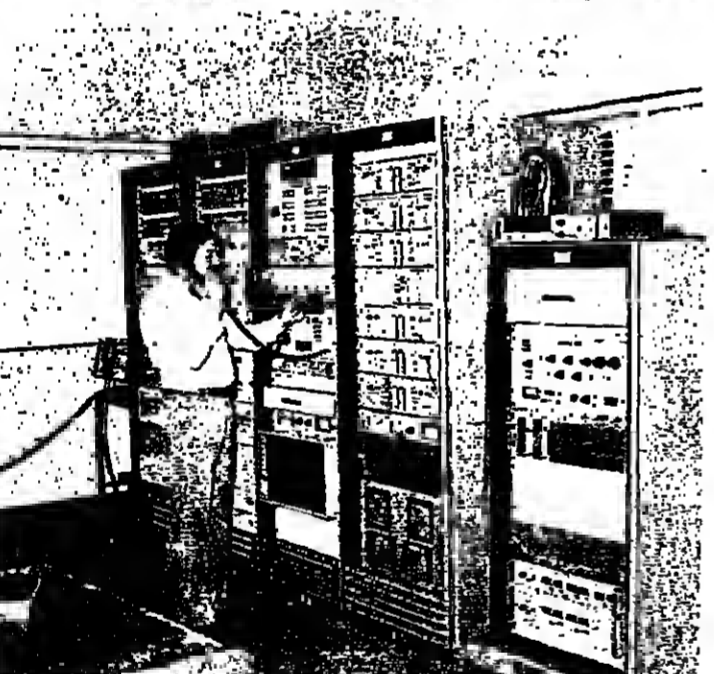
creases the work load. Salaries are not the main reason for quitting; it is more the conditions of work and the attitude of the administration. Its mistakes are reflected on the technician himself."

Mr. Khasawneh gave a rather disturbing example: "One of our best technicians, one of the first 30, left because his name was dropped from the list of those getting the 30 per cent allowance. This is one of the administrative mistakes we must face. The station has often tried to rectify this with the administration. But now the point has been reached where a failure could occur if one key person left," he reported.

"Twenty settled members can operate the station. Right now we have 30 people plus two engineers provided by the corporation. Out of these, 15 are not experienced, and that means the maintenance engineer must train the inexperienced ones -- if he has the time."



Mohammad Khasawneh: Inertia strikes.



New Spade transmitter brings the satellite station up to date. Photos by Yousof Al Alami.



Jordan's parabola-shaped dish: Pointing towards the future.

Joint c'ttee proposes agricultural measures

AMMAN (JNA). — The Minister of Agriculture Salah Jum'a returned from Damascus Tuesday after taking part in the meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Agriculture Committee, which ended Monday evening. During the three-day meeting under the Jordanian and Syrian ministers of agriculture, the committee recommended a number of measures. These include the unification of the general agricultural law, cooperation and coordination between the two countries at international agricultural exhibitions and in the research field, and the organisation of training courses for advisers in both countries. In the field of marketing, the joint committee recommended the establishment of a vegetable and fruit marketing body and a central market for the sale of vegetables and fruit in the big cities.

WHAT'S GOING ON

On Friday, April 1 at 8:00 a.m., there will be an excursion to the excavations at Tal Mazar in the Jordan Valley, which are coming to an end and have uncovered valuable information about the late Bronze Age (1750-1200 B.C.). The site -- two kms north-west of Deir Alla -- was also occupied in the Iron Age and Hellenistic periods. Dr. Kheir Yassine, an archaeologist at the University of Jordan, which sponsored the dig, will explain the excavations he has been directing at the Tal Mazar and will also give a tour of another interesting site in the valley, Tal Sayediyeh.

The camp of Dr. Yassine's international and Jordanian team located at the University of Jordan farm in the valley will also be visited.

Bring your picnic lunch and friends and meet rain or shine at 7:45 a.m. in front of the Department of Antiquities located one and a half blocks west on the left side of Zahran Street (Wadi Seer Road). Transportation is not provided.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf and Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Zeid Ibn Shaker left Amman Tuesday morning for Saudi Arabia to deliver a message from King Hussein to Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Abdul Aziz. They returned here in the evening.

* AMMAN. — Post offices in all parts of Jordan Tuesday started to stamp all in- and out-going mail with King Hussein's Silver Jubilee emblem.

* AMMAN. — Mr. Jamil Abdul Rahim, member of the Executive Committee of the General Union of Workers' Associations left here Tuesday to attend a week-long seminar on the administration of cultural labour bodies to start in Algiers April 2.

* BANGKOK. — Jordan's Ambassador to India, Mr. Zuhair Khoury, Tuesday presented his credentials to the king of Thailand at Jordan's non-resident ambassador to that country.

* AMMAN. — The Syrian government has agreed to facilitate the transport of Jordanian goods through Syrian ports by considering them internal transport. It was announced in a memorandum received by the Foreign Ministry from the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tuesday.

* DAMASCUS. — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rahman Khleifawi received Jordan's Ambassador to Syria, Mr. Nabih Nemer, Tuesday, and discussed with him the implementation of decisions passed by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.

* IRBID. — The Labour Office and the Cultural Labour Institute here are currently undertaking a survey of all institutions employing more than 20 workers to prepare a suitable cultural programme for workers in the area.

* JARASH. — Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday gave a lecture here entitled "Participants in Responsibility", in which he explained the duties of a good citizen in the process of building his country side by side with the government machinery.

Culture minister tells press Writer may receive JD 1,000 state award

By Irene Hamaidan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.). — Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf announced details of the new awards for Jordanian writers and artists at a press conference here Tuesday. The state award consists of a certificate of appreciation and a cash prize of JD 1,000. The award cannot be won more than once by a single artist. The cash prize can however, be shared between more than one person, but if the works of art submitted do not come up to standard, then no award will be given, Mr. Sharaf explained.

At the beginning of each year, the minister of culture and youth will form a committee comprising several members involved in cultural and artistic life, who will fix the rules for the state awards. The choice of winners must be approved by the government. The date of the presentation will then be announced. The main condition for any candidate, as explained by Mr. Sbaraf, is that his work must be original and not an adaptation. It should also be published in the year following the issue of the regulations.

The minister of culture can, in very special circumstances, give the award to a non-Jordanian writer or artist if his work has special value to Jordan. The state award covers the following fields: -- Novels, plays and short stories; -- Poetry; -- Research and studies; -- Plastic art; -- The history of Jordan; -- Any literary or artistic work not mentioned in the previous categories, as long as the minister of culture deems it of interest.

Sbarif Fawwaz Sharaf revealed that recently he had received a report saying that the number of books published in Jordan in the past 10 years equalled the number published in Syria in just one. He stressed that the main purpose of the awards is therefore to stimulate greater productivity on the part of Jordanian writers.

TAXI DRIVERS BEWARE!

AMMAN (JNA). — Taxi drivers have been told by the Traffic Department that they must operate the taxi meters fixed in their cars.

The department appealed to the public to inform it by telephoning 56390 and 56391 of any taxi driver not operating his meter, or who claims that the meter is out of order, so that disciplinary action can be taken against him.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.2	139.6
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	130.7	131.1
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.7	94.0
Lebanese pound	108.7	110.0
Syrian pound	92.0	92.2
Iraqi dinar	944.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,145.0	1,152.0
Egyptian pound	462.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	610.0	615.0
UAE dirham	84.7	85.5

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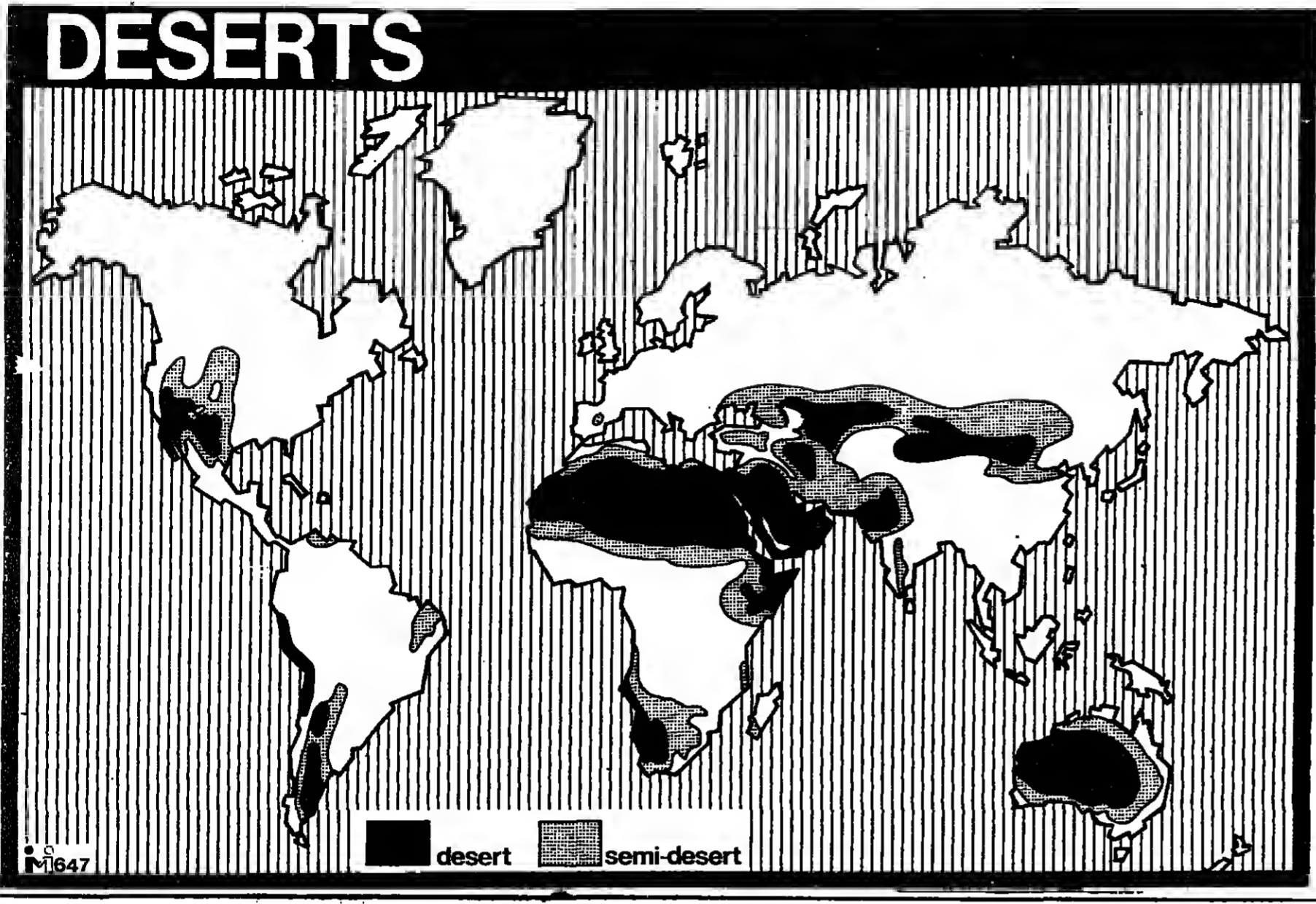
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Sudan takes bold steps to fight the encroaching desert



Some 43 per cent of the world's land mass is now covered by desert and this proportion is growing all the time. Man himself is responsible for a share of this loss by his own activities -- deforestation, over grazing and bad farming practices. The United Nations is holding a world conference in Nairobi, Aug. 29-Sept. 9 to discuss and co-ordinate measures to stem the spread of deserts. In the Sudan the problems of desert encroachment are among the worst anywhere. The following is a report from Khartoum on the measures the Sudanese government is taking to beat back the desert.

KHARTOUM, (Gemini) — This is the year of water and deserts in the United Nations conference system. The Sudanese, however, are not waiting for the pronouncements of the U.N. Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) before they tackle their problems of desert creep. UNCOD takes place in Nairobi in August. In Sudan a programme that will help beat back the southward march of the desert before that date. The Sudanese National Council for Research has therefore formulated an ambitious Desert Encroachment Control and Rehabilitation Programme (DECARP) out of its own pilot projects.

It is inviting potential government donors to Khartoum to contribute towards the 75 million of overseas cash needed to get the 26 million programme off the ground.

In Sudan the problems of desert encroachment are among the worst in the world. The rise in the area of arid land, particularly in the north and the west, makes it an ideal case study in global desertification.

In the world, says the U.N.

some 43 per cent of the land mass is covered by desert, and this proportion is growing. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that six or seven per cent of the globe's surface has degraded into desert over the past 50 years -- mainly because of man's own activities.

Dr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of FAO from 1968 to 1975, told a recent seminar on desertification in London: "These formerly productive areas now lie barren, and have ceased to produce anything for man's sustenance, because of deforestation, over-grazing and bad farming practices."

Boerma said the main reason for desertification was the over-exploitation of pastoral resources. "The starting point is frequently the disappearance of herbaceous cover, first of the perennials and then of the annuals, by overgrazing.

"After the herbaceous cover disappears, wind and water erosion occurs, the structure of the surface horizons of the soil is destroyed, and large areas of land are rendered impermeable.

"The roots of the perennials then die, and probably because of the additional effects of climate, the areas assume desert-like conditions."

This exactly mirrors Sudan's experience. The southern tip of the desert in the western Sudanese province of Kordofan has advanced some 100 kms. in 17 years and is now estimated to be moving towards the Equator at a rate of five or six kms. a year.

In its summary presentation of DECARP, the Sudanese National Council for Research says shrub woodlands have become barren woodlands devoid of all vegetation except the annual grasses and herbs that grow in the rainy season.

Only a few years ago acacia scrub could be picked within ten kilometres of Khartoum. Now its inhabitants must travel 100 kms outside the city to cut wood for fuel and charcoal.

All Nile irrigation schemes are threatened by the march of the desert, says the council. Also under threat are 2½ million feddans of pump irrigation, 7 million feddans of mechanised

crop farming, 75 per cent of the world's gum arabic production pasture for about 10 million livestock -- indeed most of the land, destined to bring about an agricultural revolution in Sudan over the next 25 years.

A reconnaissance team recently discovered that sand from the Libyan desert was being blown steadily southwards the north winds.

One river, Wadi Howar, has been completely buried by encroaching sand, while most the Nile between Deigo a Karima had suffered a serious build-up of sand on the north facing bank, making agriculture impossible.

The Sudanese say there is only one way to deal with the problem "Desert encroachment is a human problem and it takes humans to solve it."

DECARP will try to involve local people in semi-autonomous individually designed projects. Farmers in badly affected areas will be offered work irrigated or mechanised agricultural projects further south. Those staying in their home lands will be helped to care more for their environment than beforehand.

DECARP will try to stimulate cultivation in areas susceptible to wind erosion. Farmers will be encouraged to introduce a legume rotation instead of continuous cultivation.

Co-operatives will be set up range livestock and agricultural industries integrated, fire lines constructed, dunes stabilised, shelter belts and will life reserves established.

DECARP gets under way Sudan could provide the work with a notable example of people coming to terms on the own initiative with the problem of desertification.

And if this example is duplicated throughout the world it could have significant consequences for world peace.

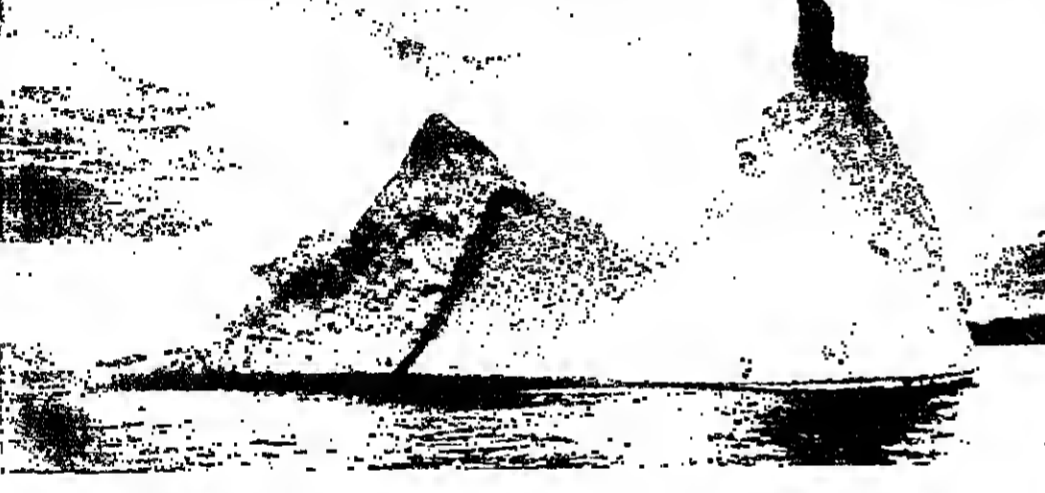
Boerma, again: "Unless lands are put under agriculture in the developing world, the will be continuing and very serious food shortages. This inevitably, would lead to high prices for food throughout the world.

"The people in the developing world would therefore be directly affected by these shortages. Moreover, history has shown that if people are subject to continuous poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and if they are aware of their deprivation, they create internal political problems, which often affect countries which consider themselves far removed.

"Therefore for reasons of humanity and of self-interest, it is right that we all rest ourselves in these matters.

The problems of the world, arid zones belong to all planet's inhabitants. Sudan's success in its desert control programme is everyone's success.

Iceberg towing may become common as water needs grow



An iceberg off Greenland: Someday it may irrigate arid lands.

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina, (CSM) — The sight of an iceberg being towed from either the Antarctic or the Arctic toward arid lands may well become common in the not-too-distant future.

It depends somewhat on conclusions reached here at the United Nations Water Conference looking into present and future water needs around the globe.

The iceberg method of coping with regional water shortage is just one of dozens of solutions to pressing water needs that have been advanced in study papers presented to the 10-day session that got underway March 14.

In a major report issued for the meeting the U.N. stated that globally there is probably enough water to meet coming needs for quite a few years. But the report added that water tends to be available "in the wrong place, at the wrong time, or with wrong quality. And one way or another, all societies are affected, however rich, however poor."

The U.N. study:

-- Warns that at least 20 per cent of the world's city dwellers and that 75 per cent of its rural people lack reasonably safe drinking water. Moreover, less than half of the urban population and less than one-tenth of the rural population have both an adequate and safe supply.

-- Indicates that most of the available water is ocean water. Only a small portion is fresh, and of this fresh supply less than 1 per cent is available for human use in streams, lakes, swamps, and in the ground; the rest is locked away in ice caps and glaciers.

Luis Urbano Jauregui, Argentine Undersecretary of Water Resources and head of the Argentine national committee for the conference, said that the demand on the world's finite water supply is growing daily, "because of the increased population, the concentration of people in certain areas, and the industrialisation process."

He indicated that at the same time the quality of water has deteriorated because of these factors.

"We must take care of our water supply, and to do that, we have to change our attitude toward it," he added.

As one of the organisers of the U.N. session, Mr. Jauregui stated that providing water for all the world's people is "an underlying theme of the conference."

However, he added, this is an expensive proposition "for water is unevenly distributed throughout the world. Within one country there are often areas where water is in excess and others which do not have it. Every day we need more and more money to convey water to areas where it is required and to purify water which has been polluted.

"New technologies which

desalination, cloud seeding, and evaporation suppression are costly," he concluded.

One of the problems in dealing with water, says the U.N. study, is that in contrast to most other commodities there is no way to establish reasonable levels of water demand and supply through pricing policies.

The U.N. study also shows that agriculture is the largest user of water. It accounts for more than 80 per cent of the world consumption, mainly through irrigation.

As world population grows, so does a need for increased food production -- and therefore an increased supply of water is essential to maintain the quality of arable land to use some marginal and arid lands through irrigation.

Also on the agenda:

-- What will growing industrialisation do to the use and quality of water? This involves government standards for quality control that vary widely throughout the world.

-- What can be done to improve water management methods around the world? Can a standard be set?

The 10-day U.N. meeting brings together water experts from 100 countries as well as representatives from liberation movements and other organisations with U.N. observer status. Chairman of the meeting is Yahia Abdel Mageed of the Sudan.

The Swiss manage to lower their inflation to below one per cent

When the Swiss found their money suddenly depreciating at the rate of more than 12 per cent they tackled the problem in a characteristic manner: They froze their own pay voluntarily, worked harder and refused to reduce the length of their working week. They got their rate of inflation down to less than one per cent.

difficulty in maintaining profit margins. The situation has been compounded by the high value of the Swiss franc in relation to other currencies.

This is, ironically, a tribute to the way the Swiss have tackled their economic and financial problems, but it does increase the difficulty of exporting. On the other hand, it also tends to bring down the price of imports (which are said to have fallen by an average of 4 per cent or so in 1976), which has also helped in the fight against inflation.

It has not been at all easy, even for the Swiss. Yet, as 1977 gets under way, they are beginning to see some benefit from their efforts. The domestic unemployment rate has been more than cut in half, though to put things in true perspective one should point out that many tens of thousands of foreigners -- Italians, Spaniards, Yugoslavs, Greeks -- appear to have permanently lost the jobs which they used to get annually or seasonally in Switzerland.

Businessmen are said to be thinking of re-investing in plant and equipment once more, after a decline in such investments of 7 per cent in 1976, on top of a 17 per cent slump in 1975. They find it comparatively easy to borrow money, because of slack demand, and can get it for as little as five to six per cent.

Some goods have been dropped slightly in price, though, of course, by no means enough to offset the galloping increases of other recent years. Dr. Gall reports: "The prices of some food and clothing items have fallen by two to eight per cent, and construction costs by an average of seven per cent." Housing prices are returning to more reasonable levels, after the frenetic boom of the early seventies. Flat rents are lower -- partly because of the very high vacancy rate, the result of earlier overbuilding.

To sum up, the Swiss have stared inflation in the face, recognised it for the menace it is, and made up their minds to get rid of it. Essentially, they are following a simple logic: What is the point in getting a 20 per cent pay increase when it means that soon the cost of living will

LUGANO, (F.T.) — In last year's inflation competition -- in which the aim was to finish bottom of the table -- the Swiss emerged a clear winner.

Between the beginning and the end of the year, the cost of living in Switzerland rose by less than 1 per cent. This compared, for example, with more than 20 per cent in Italy, around 15 per cent in Great Britain, nearly 10 per cent in France, 6 per cent or so in the United States and less than 4 per cent in West Germany.

How did the Swiss do it? The short answer is, in the first place, by getting really worried about inflation. A conservative people, conditioned to work and save hard, they were horrified at what happened to their money in the bank -- as well as their daily expenses -- when in the winter of 1974-75 the cost of living soared by an unheard-of annual rate of 12.5 per cent.

They brought it down again to the 1 per cent or so, which they find historically acceptable, in about 18 months. It took an effort of national will which had the support of the Swiss population as a whole.

According to economists like Dr. Michael Gall, a vice president of the Union Bank of Switzerland, the Swiss anti-inflation recipe was about 60 per cent psychological, and only 40 per cent practical. Proof of this lies in the popular acceptance of policies which, by Swiss standards, added up to exceptional austerity.

For example, during 1976 Swiss workers agreed to a rate of pay increase of about 2 per cent (compared with 10-11 per cent in 1974, for example). The unions did not press for more, and the membership concurred. They also worked harder for approximately the same money.

Output per man hour went up by an average of about 4 per cent during the year. Dr. Gall says: "There were cases where the average was ex-

was turned out by five to ten per cent fewer workers."

Swiss workers also put up with a certain amount of unemployment, something unknown in the country for generation or more. For years the official total of the jobless has been below 100, with thousands of job vacancies advertised. Then suddenly, in the summer of 1976, more than 30,000 Swiss were reported to be out of work.

Most of these people could not claim unemployment payments -- for the simple reason that Switzerland had no system of making such payments. However, several of the cantonal (regional) governments rushed emergency schemes into effect, and the federal government has now developed a national contributory programme.

Most astonishing of all, in a referendum in December, the Swiss people rejected a 40-hour work week, choosing to continue with the existing maximum of 43 hours -- though employers can go below this if they choose. One reason for rejection, it was said, was that the proposal came from an ultra leftwing group, though it had the support of the Socialist Party in parliament.

But the popular viewpoint is still that the Swiss have to work harder than other people -- over the Christmas holidays, the most time most Swiss were allowed off was a half day on Christmas Eve -- because otherwise they could not enjoy their exceptionally high standard of living.

They have to produce more and better than the competition, and export most of what they produce, because they are so dependent on imports for foodstuffs and raw materials.

The same sophisticated reasoning has persuaded Swiss businessmen to accept lower profits, or even to do without them completely on some occasions, so as to retain foreign customers. Even the giants of the Swiss economy, firms like Nestle, Ciba-Geigy, Brown

German companies investing abroad fear repercussions on local labour

Germany is becoming a major investor in other people's industry, particularly in the United States. But some Germans are worried that putting German money into other countries is, in effect, exporting manufacturing jobs from Germany to those countries.

BERLIN, (F.T.) — West Germany is not only the world's second largest trading nation, after the U.S.; it is also fast developing into a major international investor. This marks an important change in the country's reluctance to invest abroad after 1945.

As a result of the wartime loss of foreign investments by German companies, it took nearly 20 years before they again began to consider risking capital abroad.

There were some exceptions, such as the subsidiaries of V.W., Siemens and the big chemical companies in Brazil; but the sharp rise in the outward flow of German investments did not begin until the late 1960s. In 1975, current German investments abroad exceeded foreign investments in West Germany by a record DM2.7 billion (now £875 million) and the figure for this past year is also expected to show outward flow greatly exceeding inflow.

Along with the rise in foreign investments there is a growing uneasiness among West Germans over what this all means for the industry-based West German economy. The trade unions have on occasion spoken of an export of manufacturing jobs by West German industry seeking to hold down labour costs.

In not so many years, it has been predicted, West Germany will be too expensive a country in which to produce cars and will increasingly relocate its industries in low-wage countries. The expression "extended work bench" is being given to areas such as Southern Europe, South-East Asia and Latin America, which are seen as the main beneficiaries of West German capital exports.

Those who see West Germany being drained of its main asset, a powerful and diversified industry, point to the fact that while a large proportion of U.S. and British capital abroad

3.1 billion, the Netherlands with DM3.1 billion, Britain with DM 1.3 billion, Italy with DM1.6 billion and Austria with DM1.5 billion.

The Berliner Bank analysis suggests that Spain is a "special case," as German capital there consists mainly of hotels, restaurants and dwellings. The survey says of Brazil that it is "not primarily the low wages there that attract investments but instead the future possibilities of a vast developing country, rich in raw materials and relatively far on the path of industrialisation."

A direct relationship exists between the level of exports to a country and the extent of German investments there. However, although German investments follow exports they lead to even more West German exports, according to the analysis.

This results from, firstly, the growing number of West German banks which set up abroad and generate business for German companies back home and, secondly, the supply of parts and semi-finished products to German-owned companies which goes beyond the original capital goods to start up production.

As for German investments in developing nations, the German study makes the point that raw materials are an important reason for investing there but not the main motive, which is found to be expanding sales of German products.

In other words, German companies are less prone to invest in raw materials extractive industries in order to assure supplies than they are to set up a subsidiary of a West German company to produce machinery, cars and trucks.

These locally-produced goods, it is found, do not hurt the export chances of home-based German firms or reduce jobs in West Germany. The reason given is that the developing country would not have the money available to import such products from Germany in the first place. It is faced with the choice of either having a foreign subsidiary produce the needed goods in the country or doing without them.

ferent cause has been the share rise in West German investments flowing into the technologically most advanced country, the U.S. After the effective devaluation of the dollar, which followed the floating of the D-Mark against the dollar, the U.S. currency's erosion in a change value to the German mark caused many German exports, such as cars, to be sold at a loss in the U.S.

This situation could not continue if the U.S. market were not to be lost altogether. German companies. The rest has been a steep rise in German investments in the U.S. of from DM2.6 billion at the start of 1974 to DM4.9 billion in mid-1976. Volkswagen alone is expected to invest DM300 million by 1978 in its new assembly plant in Pennsylvania. This point, of course, is that German companies were not faced with the question of sacrificing jobs in West Germany by "exporting" them to America. It simply would have become uncompetitive there at the price the new exchange rates were forcing them to charge.

The Berliner Bank study is with a caution to German manufacturers. Apart from political considerations, it says the purely economic ones should not be underestimated. Product costs do not consist only of labour costs and low hourly wages do not necessarily mean low labour charges per unit of production. "A number of German companies have had pay dearly for their engagement in allegedly cheap countries," it says, citing the precision toolmaking and optical industries which conducted their own investigation and warned against "relocating euphoria."

The advice of the West Berlin study is that if the foreign country or region is not going to be a major consumer of products to be produced by German companies, it is wiser to stay home. This of reasoning may already have been translated into concrete decisions by German industry and could have a considerable impact on the role it sees itself in the economies of de-

هكذا صحت القول

Pakistani opposition leader: No to parliament; No to Bhutto

RAWALPINDI, March 29 (AFP) — Pakistan's detained opposition leader Maulana Mufti Mahmud has said the opposition recognises neither the National Assembly, nor the re-election of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto by this "unconstitutional body", the pro-opposition newspaper Nawa Waqar reported today.

Addressing fellow political detainees in a jail at Haripur about 80 kms. from here, the 67-year old opposition leader said the opposition would continue its movement for the resignation of the government and fresh general elections.

The nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) alleges that the March 7 elections which gave birth to the present National Assembly were rigged. It has refused to accept the election results as well as Prime Minister Bhutto's repeated offers for negotiation about its grievances.

Almost all leading PNA figures were rounded up last Thursday amid widespread violence and disturbances in which the government deployed troops to support police in a number of major cities.

The newly-elected 216-member National Assembly which met for three days without the opposition, was adjourned yesterday after re-electing Mr. Bhutto for a new five-year term.

Mr. Bhutto said in a speech after his re-election that the state of emergency which empowered the executive to detain persons without trial, could be scrapped if the opposition adopted the constitutional path.

Although opposition supporters are still active across the country, the scale and intensity of the campaign has apparently decreased after the crackdown on the opposition's top leaders.

Arab League will replace suspended U.S. aid to UNESCO

CAIRO, March 28 (R) — Arab nations plan to pay their contributions to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) two years in advance to make up for the suspension of U.S. financial aid, Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad announced yesterday.

In December 1974 the U.S. House of Representatives approved a bill cutting off U.S. contributions to UNESCO in retaliation for the organisation ending its aid to Israel.

The U.S. administration last month asked Congress to re-new U.S. payments but a decision has still to be made.

The Arab League's secretary general said the advance payment of Arab contributions would offset UNESCO's deficit which occurred following the U.S.'s decision.

The Arab League Council, meeting here since last Saturday, was scheduled to adopt the recommendation, approved by its Political Committee in its meeting today.

The council's Economic Committee has also recommended a ban on any foreign company which refuses to comply with Arab boycott regulations against Israel.

The recommendation was in answer to American draft laws asking U.S. firms to refuse boycott inquiries on whether they have any activities in Israel. Arab League sources were reported to have said.

Pan Am, KLM charge: Bureaucracy holds up air crash prob

SANTA CRUZ, Canary Islands, March 29 (R). — Spokesmen for Pan American Airways and KLM, operators of two jumbo jets which collided here on Sunday with the loss of at least 570 lives, charged today that bureaucracy was holding up investigations into the world's worst aviation disaster.

As an investigating committee of Spanish, Dutch and American officials met for the first time, a U.S. military plane landed at the wreckage-strewn Los Rodeos Airport to collect injured survivors of the high-speed runway collision.

The camouflaged C-130 Hercules transport swooped down on to the taxi lane beside the charred remains of the Dutch KLM and Pan Am Boeing 747s still cluttering the airport's runway.

A Pan Am spokesman, meanwhile, criticised the Spanish government for disclaiming responsibility for the collision in a statement which ruled out sabotage, communications breakdowns or a lapse by air traffic controller. The statement was "entirely premature" and "uncalled-for," the spokesman said.

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Over 100 Thais will be arrested for coup attempt, source says

BANGKOK, March 29 (R). — The military has ordered the questioning of more than 100 officers and civilians in connection with Saturday's abortive coup, a high-ranking military source said today.

Police also reported that a senior government information official had been arrested for questioning over radio broadcasts by the coup plotters.

The military source said that among those to be detained for investigation were four newspaper columnists, a newspaper owner and more than 100 military officers.

Police buildings were briefly taken over by 300 soldiers.

The government said the attempt was led by Gen. Chal Hiranayasin, onetime commander of Thai troops in Vietnam and a former deputy commander-in-chief of the army. He was discharged for refusing to carry out orders as the military took power in Thailand last October.

Caglayangil in Kuwait to buy oil on credit

KUWAIT, March 29 (R). — Turkey is seeking Kuwaiti oil on easy credit terms, Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said here today.

prices but the country's oil officials would have to decide on the credit terms.

Informed sources said Turkey was seeking to pay for its oil over periods longer than the normal two months granted to other oil buyers.

Talks on Turkey's possible oil purchases from Kuwait would continue with the competent officials, they added.

Mr. Caglayangil said on arrival here last night that Turkey produced only three million tons of oil a year while it needed 18 million.

The Kuwaiti minister was speaking after a day of talks here with Turkish Foreign Minister Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil who arrived yesterday on a tour of the Gulf to secure his country's crude oil needs.

Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait was willing to sell oil to Turkey at Official OPEC-approved

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

EEC ministers discuss new proposals for commodity price-stabilisation on April 5

BRUSSELS, March 29 (AFP). — New proposals by the European Economic Community (EEC) for measures to stabilise commodity prices will be discussed by EEC foreign ministers when they meet on April 5 in Luxembourg, reliable sources said yesterday.

They said EEC experts will draft new texts for consideration by the ministers following the agreement in principle by EEC heads of government in Rome on the community's position in the final phase of the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC).

Talks in CIEC -- the North-South dialogue -- are to resume at the end of April.

According to remarks by EEC leaders at the end of the Rome talks on Saturday, the proposals will call for the creation of a common fund for stabilisation of commodity prices. But it may not be of the same character as the one developing countries want to set up.

The sources noted that an easing of the West German position made it possible for the nine to agree on a joint platform on this issue. West Germany had so far opposed any system that might interfere with the free play of market forces in international commodity trading.

The same sources said the EEC experts would have to take this into account when they work out their texts.

The common fund proposed by the nine was likely to cover only a limited number of commodities or existing commodity agreements.

Developing countries have called for a common fund to finance buffer stocks for nearly two dozen commodities.

The EEC is expected to propose that the common fund should work as some kind of a clearing system between buffer stock arrangements running a surplus and those facing a deficit.

In addition, the nine are likely to call for joint financing by producers and consumers.

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt proposed in Rome that other guarantee systems could be worked out for commodities not covered by the proposed common fund.

Mr. Schmidt said in Rome that he had in mind an extension of the Stabex system established by the EEC and 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries associated with the nine under the Lome Convention. The Stabex system guarantees export earnings of signatory countries rather than the price of the commodities they export.

The sources said the EEC was also planning special measures for the 20 or so poorest countries which have little or nothing to export.

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The sources said the EEC was also planning special measures for the 20 or so poorest countries which have little or nothing to export.

Japan may allow U.S. forces to fight in Korea from its soil

TOKYO, March 29 (AFP). — Japan might allow American forces on its soil to fight in Korea in an emergency, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda suggested today. He told a parliamentary committee that there was the possibility that he would say "yes" to American forces stationed in Japan advancing to Korea for combat operations. Under the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty of 1960, the two governments agreed to hold "prior consultation" on a major change in American military deployment in Japan or a dispatch of U.S. forces from Japan for direct military involvement.

Hollywood's 1st posthumous Oscar goes to Peter Finch

LOS ANGELES, March 29 (R). — Hollywood has awarded two of its main Oscars to a dead star and a little-known actor who was out of work a few months ago.

The Best Actor Award went to the late Peter Finch for his role as a mad television announcer in Network, the first time the American Film Academy has made a posthumous award to an actor in its 49-year history.

His Jamaican widow, Eletha, sobbing as she held the golden statuette, last night told a star-packed gathering and a television audience estimated at 75 million: "I wish he were here tonight to be with us all. But since he is not here I will always cherish this for him."

Mr. Finch, who was born in London and educated in Australia, died of a heart attack in a Los Angeles hotel last January shortly after he had completed work in Network, a bitter satire of the television industry. He was 60.

Mr. Sylvester Stallone, 30, who had played only bit roles in films saw his sentimental boxing film Rocky win the Best Film Award. He wrote the script and starred in the film.

Mr. Finch's co-star, Ms. Faye Dunaway, won the Best Actress Award for her portrayal of a bitchy television producer. Network won four awards, including that for Best Supporting Actress given to Ms. Beatrice Straight -- who played only three scenes in the film -- and Best Screenplay for Mr. Paddy Chayevsky.

Mr. Jason Robards, 54, won the Best Supporting Actor Award for his role as a newspaper editor in the film of the Watergate scandal, All the President's Men. This film also won four Oscars.

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The military source said that among those to be detained for investigation were four newspaper columnists, a newspaper owner and more than 100 military officers.

The source, who asked that his identity should not be disclosed, told reporters there was evidence that they had been implicated in the plot.

Five army officers have already been arrested and are awaiting trial before a military court accused of heading the coup attempt, in which Radio Thailand and two military of-

Dayan will not contest elections

TEL AVIV, March 29 (R) — Former Defence Minister Moshe Dayan said last night he will not run as a Labour Party parliamentary candidate in Israel's forthcoming general elections.

"I do not see any point running but that does mean I am leaving the party," Mr. Dayan, who is a member of the current Knesset, told Israel Television.

He also said he will run on an independent list.

The controversial former military and political leader told Israel Television Saturday he would agree to be a Labour candidate in the next Knesset in May 17 general election only if the prime minister promised to hold a national poll before withdrawing from the occupied West Bank.

Latin America to receive direct Arab financial aid

SANTIAGO, March 29 (R). — Talks are at an advanced stage on plans to bypass international agencies and channel Arab financial resources directly to Latin American countries, a senior Latin American development official has said here.

Senor Andres Vellido, Assistant Secretary General of the Association of the Latin American Development Finance Organisations (ALIDE), told a press conference at the weekend that talks on the proposal had been going on for several months and were at an advanced stage.

He also gave details of items on the agenda of the seventh annual meeting of ALIDE, which opens here today and will be attended by over 400 delegates from development banking and finance organisations in Latin America, Europe, Japan and Arab countries.

The week-long conference will discuss the role of development banking in the promotion of finance markets in this region.

Last January, a team of ALIDE representatives supported by Spain's Instituto de Crédito and the Banco Espanol-Arabe visited Caracas, Bogota, Lima, Buenos Aires and Rio de

Janeiro to discuss arrangements for direct Arab financial support, he said.

The Banco Espanol-Arabe, which was set up about 18 months ago with a capital of \$25 million, has so far channelled about \$75 million in surplus Arab funds into Spain.

"For this reason, we believe the Arab resources to be sent to Latin America could be significantly larger," he said.

U.S. trade figures for February show deepest plunge for any single month

WASHINGTON, March 29 (R). — A harsh winter and heavy demand for higher-priced oil pushed the United States February trade deficit deeper into the red than ever before in a single month, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

The United States imported \$1.87 billion more than it exported last month, it said.

The deficit reflected a much heavier than normal demand for oil imports as companies moved to replenish stocks depleted by the cold weather. Oil

imports, which normally decline in February, rose nearly \$180 million to \$3.32 billion last month.

But part of the increase was due to a jump in prices. The average cost of a barrel of imported crude oil rose to \$13.02 from \$12.83 in January.

The February deficit came on the heels of a \$1.67 billion shortfall the previous month. For the first two months of the year, the cumulative deficit totalled more than \$3.5 billion. This compares with a deficit of \$5.9 billion for all of 1976.

The impact on exports of the poor February weather was less severe than in previous months. U.S. exporters shipped \$9.81 billion worth of goods overseas in February, up 2.2 per cent from the depressed January level.

The Commerce Department's chief economist, Mrs. Courtney Slater, yesterday said that even though department analysts expect the level of oil imports to decline in coming months, the U.S. can still expect a larger trade deficit in 1977 than last year.

The U.S. economic recovery was still proceeding faster than that of many of the country's trading partners, she said.

As a result, import growth can be expected to continue to outpace export growth.

Analysts here noted that it is U.S. policy to encourage imports from other industrialised nations and from less developed countries.

The Carter administration has argued that financially strong nations such as the United States, West Germany and Japan should accept large deficits to help economic recovery in other nations.

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WALL STREET REPORT

The stock market managed a slight recovery Tuesday as the industrial average gained nearly six points in moderate trading.

Analysts on the New York stock exchange attributed this advance to purely technical forces in the market, which had lost more than 41 points in the past eight sessions.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a good 857 to 499 margin as most groups of shares closed on a slightly higher tone. Auto, department store, pharmaceutical and food issues were among the strongest groups, while gold mines closed on a weaker note. American Motors rose 1/4 to 5-1/8 in active trading while Xerox gained one point to 48-5/8.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 932.02, a gain of 5.91 points; Transp at 226.24, a gain of 0.93; utilities at 105.83, a gain of 0.51. 17,030,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,460,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed firmer Tuesday, helped by small pre-budget support, despite a 15:00 the F.T. index was up 4.4 at 416.0. Government bonds firmed by up to 1/4 point, while equity leaders showed average rises of 2p to 6.0. Isolated issues rose more.

Gold shares were easing with the bullion price, having ruled firmer throughout much of the morning helped by some U.S. interest late overnight. Dollar stocks and Australians eased.

B.P. was around 18p up, reflecting a technical rally, dealers said. This helped Shell put on 11p while Ultramar added 7p. Fisons, Metal Box, Turner and Newall, Hawker Siddley, Guest Keen and Tube Investments showed net gains of 4p to 10p.

Insurances rallied from Monday's weakness which reflected the Tenerife air disaster.

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at \$148.40/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

KUWAIT, March 29 (R). — The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan said today that Iran was negotiating a secret loan of \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia. Quoting "well-connected sources" in Riyadh, the newspaper said Iran and Saudi Arabia were also trying to coordinate relations among Gulf states and to settle differences among members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over oil prices.

TOKYO, March 29 (AFP). — Mirroring the overnight plunge of the U.S. dollar overseas, the American currency plummeted below the 277.00 yen level for the first time since April 25, 1974 on the Tokyo foreign exchange market today. Trading was fairly active. The dollar for overnight delivery closed the day at 276.70 yen, down from yesterday's finish of 277.70 yen. The spot dollar's central trading rate was 276.70 yen, a steep fall from yesterday's median rate of 278.40 yen. Market sources blamed the slump on the dollar's overnight plunge in London and New York, the oversupply of dollars on the domestic foreign exchange market and Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda's statement last night favouring the rising value of the yen.

LONDON, March 29 (AFP). — Lloyds Bank International is to open a subsidiary in Cairo, it announced here yesterday. In the past year, Lloyds has already opened Middle East branches in Bahrain, Dubai and Tehran.

TRIPOLI, March 29 (R). — Libya is to help Tunisia to combat the effects of severe drought over the past two months, Libya's Arab Revolution News Agency, ARNA, reported today. No details were given.

DUBAI, March 29 (R). — Sheikh Rashid Ibn Said Al Maktum, ruler of Dubai, today laid the foundation stone of a 340-million dirham (\$50-million) commercial centre here. The 24-floor centre, believed to be the tallest in the Gulf region, will include a 450-room international hotel, a cinema and offices.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

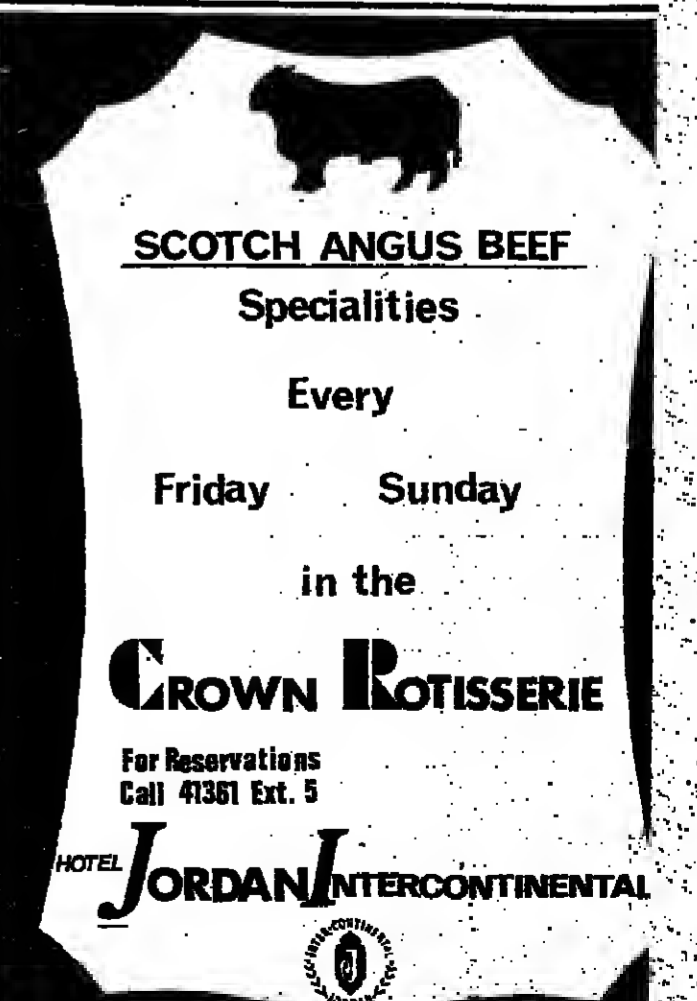
CAIRO, March 29 (R). — Sudanese Foreign Minister, Dr. Mansour Khalid, arrived here today with a message to President Anwar Sadat from President Jaafar Nimeiri. Dr. Khalid did not disclose the contents of the message which is believed to deal with the outcome of a recent Arab summit between Sudan, Somalia, North and South Yemen on Red Sea strategy.

TEL AVIV, March 29 (R). — Work at Israel's three main sea ports was back to normal today after settlement of a week-long dockers' dispute which citrus growers claim cost the country \$12 million in delayed exports. Dockers last night accepted a 5 per cent pay increase worked out between the government and the labour federation, Histadrut.

BANGKOK, March 29 (R). — Burmese Prime Minister U Sein Win and two other government ministers resigned today in a major cabinet reshuffle, an official announcement said. Mr. U Sein Win and Deputy Premier U Lwin, who also resigned, were recently criticised at a congress of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party for failing to adhere to guidelines and policies laid down in national economic plans. Mr. U Mamng Kha, hitherto Minister of Mines and Labour, was appointed prime minister.

CAIRO, March 29 (AFP). — Former U.S. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller arrived here today from Syria for a brief visit. Last night, Mr. Rockefeller talked with Syrian President Hafez Assad. They reviewed Syrian-American relations, informed sources said.

WASHINGTON, March 29 (AFP). — Soviet T62 tanks and soldiers wearing Russian-style uniforms and carrying Soviet AK47 rifles will take part in American army manoeuvres next year. The Soviet arms were captured during the 1973 Middle East war and have been loaned to America by Israel. American experts have examined the equipment, which will be used by soldiers posing as Russians in the exercises, and "hope it will make manoeuvres more realistic."



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